

(b) to (d) Annual Plan Outlays are decided with mutual agreement of the State Government and Planning Commission at the level of Chief Minister and Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission after due assessment of availability of resources and developmental needs of the State.

Committee on criteria for allocation of funds to States

4519. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been set up to determine the criteria for allocation for funds to the States under the major rural poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on 19th February, 1999, a Committee of NDC was set up on the criterion for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation programmes under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Members of the Committee included Minister for Rural Development, Minister of State for Planning, Chief Ministers of Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh with Member, Planning Commission as Member-Secretary of the Committee. The Terms of Reference of the Committee was to work out the criterion for allocation of funds under the Major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes in the Ninth Plan.

(c) to (e) A meeting of the NDC Committee was held on 12.01.2000 and there was a consensus and agreement on continuation of the presently used criterion, *i.e.*, 15 per cent adjusted shares as approved by the full Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. However, some States made the observation that

some incentive may be provided to the States that had performed well in terms of poverty reduction. It was also noted that there were special needs and pockets of acute distress in some States and these issues also needed to be addressed. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission appreciated their concern and agreed that such issues could be considered at the time of the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Report of the NDC Committee would be placed before the next meeting of the NDC.

Improvement of Nil in Tripura

4520. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fund released from 1995-96 till date for improvement of National Highway in Tripura, year-wise;

(b) what improvements have been made recently and whether any double laning is being done; and

(c) the details of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The National Highways in Tripura are entrusted to Border Roads Organization (BRO) for improvement and development. The details of funds allocated from 1995-96 till date for improvement of National Highways in the State are as under:

Year	Rs. lakh
1995-96	859.00
1996-97	755.00
1997-98	1267.60
1998-99	1601.30
1999-2000	1986.00
2000-2001	1570.00

(b) and (c) Double-laning of 172 km of NH 44 from Churaibari to Agartala has been planned by BRO. The stretch of NH 44 from Agartala to Sabroom is under development to intermediate